

REMARKS

Please consider the present application in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claims 1 and 3 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, 6, and 7 are now pending in the present application. Claims 2, 4, 6, and 7 are independent claims.

Claim Amendments

Claims 2 and 4 have been amended into independent form. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Allowable Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 7 are allowable, and that claims 2 and 4 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten as independent claims. Thus, claims 2, 4, 6, and 7 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

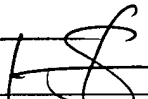
Claims 1 and 3 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,641,294 ("Lefebvre") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0033503 ("Hamp"). Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled in the present application. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 02008/131001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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